

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 309875 TOSEC 130023
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
PM:RERICSON
S/S:FWISNER
S/S-O: SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309875 TOSEC 130023

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: PRINCE SULTAN'S CONCERN ABOUT DELAY IN CORPS
OF ENGINEERS PROJECT

1. IN FOLLOW UP TO THE SECRETARY'S LAST RIYADH VISIT,
SECRETARIAT ASKED THAT WE BRIEF SECRETARY ON A PROBLEM
INVOLVING CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO WHICH PRINCE SULTAN
HAD APPARENTLY QUITE VAGUELY REFERRED IN TALKING WITH
THE SECRETARY. AFTER DRAWING A NUMBER OF BLANKS IN
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SULTAN HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT,
WE HAVE FINALLY COME TO CONCLUSION HE WAS REFERRING TO
THE AMENDMENT TO THE CORPS' FMS CASE FOR THE SAUDI
ORDNANCE CORPS PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES EXTENSION OF BENDIX-
SEYANCO SERVICES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CORPS. I
AM, THEREFORE, PROVIDING YOU WITH BACKGROUND ON THIS
QUESTION SHOULD THE SECRETARY WISH FOR YOU TO BRIEF HIM
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PAGE 02 STATE 309875 TOSEC 130023

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN RIYADH.

2. SULTAN'S CONCERN WAS APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY THE CURRENT
CONTRACT'S SCHEDULED EXPIRATION LAST MONTH. THE CASE HAD
BEEN HELD UP BY PM AS PART OF A GENERAL FREEZE ON PRO-
CESSING OF ALL FMS CASES HAVING ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD APPLY
AGAINST THE FY 78 ARMS TRANSFER CEILING. DOD HAD

THEREFORE ARRANGED FOR A TEMPORARY CONTRACT EXTENSION UNTIL

MARCH 1978 TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE OVERALL CASE TO BE
APPROVED; SULTAN WAS INFORMED OF THIS FACT.

BECAUSE OF THE DOLLAR VALUE (DOLS 604.5 MILLION--OF
WHICH DOLS 145.5 MILLION IS WEAPONS RELATED), THE CASE
COMES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 36(B) OF THE ARMS
EXPORT CONTROL ACT, SPECIFICALLY THE CONGRESSIONAL
NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES. AT OUR REQUEST, WARREN
CHRISTOPHER, WHEN ACTING, RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESIDENT
APPROVE SENDING THE CASE TO CONGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND
THE NSC STAFF HAS THE RECOMMENDATION BEFORE DR. BRZEZINSKI.
CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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